

Serial No. 09//804,198

Amendment Dated August 28, 2003
Reply to Action Dated April 28, 2003**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicants' invention is set forth in the claims as amended herein.

In the Official Action mailed April 28, 2003, the Examiner suggests a number of claim changes which, as stated therein, place claims 1 and 6 in condition for allowance. It is believed that the proposed changes are based on a prior Examiner's Amendment, included in a Notice of Allowance dated November 22, 2002.

The Examiner is reminded that reference to prior amendments as having been made in documents identified only as "paper no. 6" does not identify the amendment or the paper in which the amendments were made, inasmuch as none of the relevant papers provided by the USPTO (in this application) include any identification as "paper no.". It is helpful if papers are identified by a mail date or title thereof, to assist applicants in identifying the same.

Therefore, noting the Examiner's reference to the proposed claim amendments as based on "twice amended" claims, it is concluded that the Examiner's amendment of November 22, 2002 has been entered.

Upon analysis of the proposed amendment, it is believed that a number of changes are appropriate for syntactical reasons, as well as to avoid possible ambiguities.

For example, inasmuch as front and back (or rear) portions are referenced, as noted in the amendment proposed for claim 6, it is clear that the same should not be identified as "front and back (or rear) portion". Therefore, the amendment

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provided herein corrects the proposal accordingly, and deletes the indefinite singular article "a".

Moreover, as the proposed insert for claim 6 refers to "the back portion", it is clear that existing references to both the antecedent recitation of "rear portion" and to the subsequent recitation "rear portion" should be changed to "back portion". The present amendment corrects the inconsistency.

Further, upon analysis of the prior Examiner's Amendment, it is apparent that a similar change is appropriate for claim 2 and that, for consistency with its parent claim 6, claims 7 and 8 require amendment. The present amendment attends to the appropriate corrections, as well as to correction of claims 2, 3 and 4 in a manner hereinabove described relative to the indefinite singular article "a", to correction of claim 2 to identify balls of a second "row", to correction of claim 4 to assure appropriate antecedence, and to provide appropriate use of the term "wherein" for recitations of the form "element A is" of a particular configuration.

In summary, the present amendment attends to various corrections in the Examiner's proposal of April 28, 2003, as well as to corresponding changes in the remaining claims.

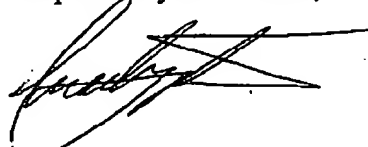
In view of the previous allowance of claims 2-5 and 7-10, and in view of the statement of allowability of claims 1 and 6, it is courteously submitted that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited.

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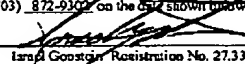
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In order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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